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C!N

Street Magik

Do You Believe in Magik?

Visitors from all over the world have experienced the magic of New York City... but there's a *different* sort of magik in Manhattan—magik that's a little more unpredictable, a little more dangerous, and hidden from the average city dweller. Welcome to the world of ***Street Magik,*** an original graphic novel by *Luke Lieberman, Rodney Buchemi, & Miguel Montenegro* published by Dynamite Entertainment.

Writer *Luke Lieberman* explained how the concept for this original graphic novel came about. "It started really as a bunch of notes and ideas that were running through my mind when I was still a student at NYU in the Village, NYC. I was using what was around me. In New York you are always surrounded by people, and I found myself wondering about the people I saw, what was their life like? What was going on in their lives at that exact fleeting moment when I happened to glimpse it?

"I saw a unique street person and wondered the same thing, and then started creating a mythos of my own – what if he was actually thousands of years old? What if this hobo appearance was all a ruse? What if he was the gatekeeper to a secret underground realm in New York?"

While Lieberman knew there was potential in this premise, he didn't get around to developing the story right away. "After college I moved out to LA to take an opportunity working for Stan Lee. After he had taught me a thing or two about writing, and as I was feeling a little homesick for the Big Apple, I cranked out my first feature length script."

As Lieberman tells it, ***Street Magik*** "has a healthy serving of mystery and fantasy, set against an urban landscape – but really the story is about Jake, an angry, confused kid. All the supernatural problems he faces exacerbate the real-life problems he confronts every day – his father's death, his mother's drinking, having to hold his family together while trying to get through college. He is a troubled kid, and he does not have time for flaky nonsense like 'magic.'

"But he had better start believing – and fast, or he will fall prey to dark, supernatural forces."

Even though the film didn't get made, Lieberman didn't abandon the premise. "I brought ***Street Magik*** to Dynamite when we started working on the ***Red Sonja vs Thulsa Doom*** series; they read it, loved it, and thought 'why not a graphic novel?'

"The next step was bringing in the artist. We brought in *Rodney Buchemi* – and I knew from the first few character sketches that he had the right imagination. His design for Ronan was far different than I imagined, but I liked his design ***better*** – and his version is now in the book. There is nothing better than working with people who can see your vision and then take it to the next level."

Rodney Buchemi may be new to American readers, but his history with comics goes back more than a decade. "I did my first Comic Book more than ten years ago in a town called Juiz de Fora, in southeast Brazil... In addition to doing the project ***Dread And Alive*** for Zoolook Entertainment, I was also the artist of the Brazilian comic strip ***The Fahrenheit Pack***

"After I met *Cristiano Seixas*, I became a part of the team at Big Jack Studios. Soon after that I started to do some pin-ups for US clients through Glass House Graphics, the agency that I´m glad to be part of.

"I was sharing my time between those jobs and doing samples; Dynamite saw my work, and this led to the ***Street Magik*** graphic novel. I've loved doing this book—first, because I've learned a lot; second, because I like the script; and third, because I enjoyed the creative freedom that Dynamite gave me."

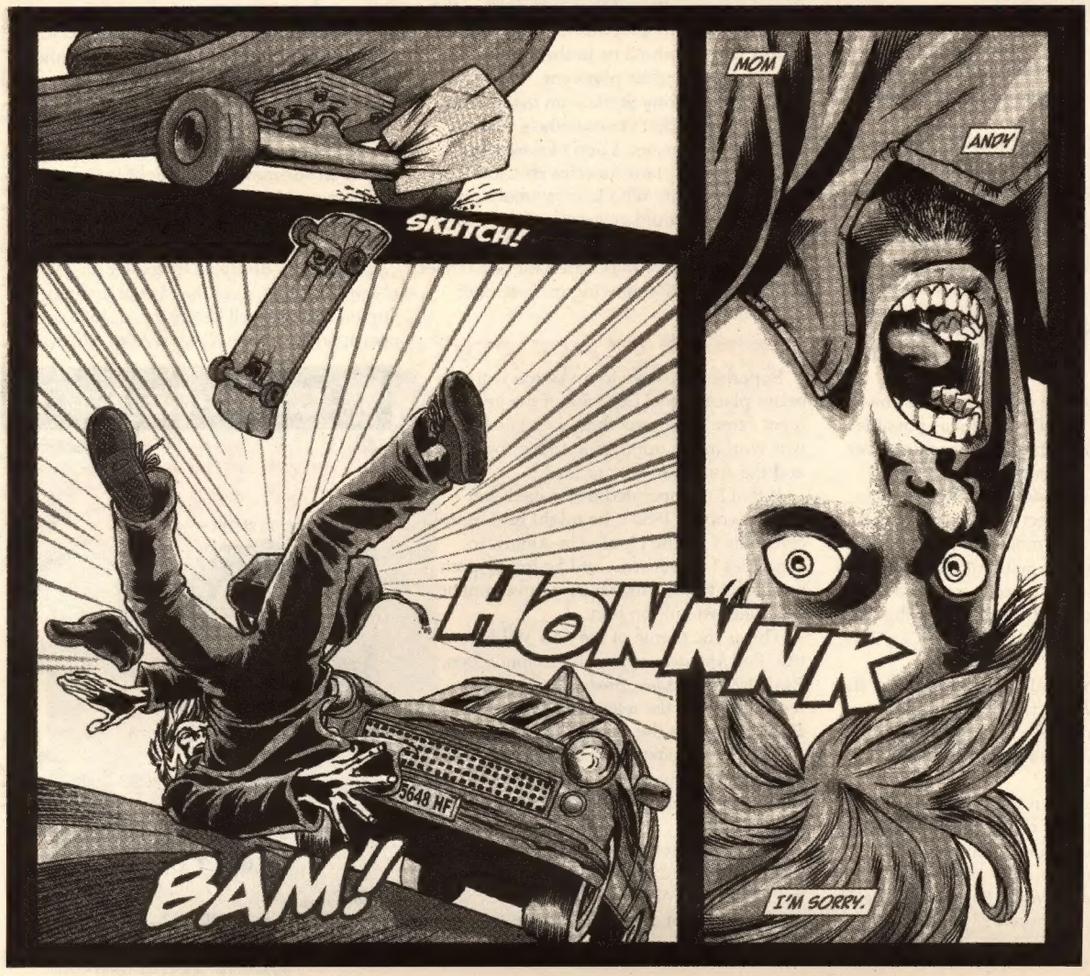
Buchemi found himself drawn in by Lieberman's imaginative tale. "As a fanboy, I liked books about magic, adventure, romance and a bit of comedy and I found all that in Luke´s script."

For Lieberman, making the transition from screenwriting to comics was very natural. "Science fiction, fantasy, comics—I grew up on this stuff and it is all related and intertwined. To me, telling a good story is basically the same no matter what medium you are working in – film, comics, television, novels, video games. It is all about characters and concept.

"For that matter, the process of turning ***Street Magik*** into a graphic novel was very similar to taking a script and turning it into storyboards, which I typically did for any film I was directing back in school. The *real* division in my work is between creative work and business work."

While ***Street Magik*** is launching as an original graphic novel, the tale leaves itself open for further development if there's sufficient interest. "Where one story ends, another begins!" Lieberman said.

While Dynamite may be new to the original graphic novel field, Lieberman is convinced that they have a successful graphic novel strategy. "Dynamite is the best new publisher out there, and they put more care into their material then most of the established publishers. It's just logical for them to break into new areas. This is one of a number of projects I've been working on with Dynamite, and they've all been exciting!"



Not only did ***Street Magik*** impress the folks at Dynamite, it also impressed another writer with some pretty impressive comics credentials to his name. *Stan Lee*, a legend in the field, is supplying the foreword for the graphic novel. "Stan is a friend and mentor, he took time out of his busy schedule to sit with me and dissect my writing style and teach me the fundamentals. Its something I'll never forget – opportunities like that are rare in life. I first met Stan when I did a documentary about him in college...

"When I first told Stan the idea for Street Magik years ago he hated it – 'too much like Dr. Strange!' I think he was really surprised when I brought it back a few years later as a completed project – and I think he was proud of me for sticking with it.

And there's one other writer who's contributing to ***Street Magik,*** albeit in a small way. "*Billy Joel* may not be a comic book legend, but he was a big deal to me growing up, and he let me use the lyrics to 'You're My Home' in the Street Magik graphic novel. All I can say is thank you very much sir!

Street Magik, a $12.99 graphic novel, is scheduled for late October release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

This News Has Hawkeye Fans All A'Quiver

You knew it was bound to happen, but you didn't know when.

Until now, that is.

But Marvel has confirmed that Hawkeye will return to the Marvel Universe in ***New Avengers #26...*** and he's not alone. Quite the contrary, he's accompanied by one of the most controversial figures in recent Marvel history.

"It's a story called 'The Ballad of Clint Barton and Wanda Maximoff,'" ***New Avengers*** writer *Brian Bendis* told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "It's not only the return of Hawkeye, it's the return of the Scarlet Witch. It's them coming face to face after the events of ***House of M.*** It's where they've been since ***House of M,*** when they found his costume," Bendis continued. "This issue connects a couple of moments in ***House of M #8*** - we see a little hint of Wanda at the end, and we see the costume on the wall in Avengers Mansion. We see how that costume got there, and we see what Hawkeye's been doing, and how he basically can't get on with his life until he confronts Wanda. So he's looking for her, and he finds her. So it's what they've been doing, and what the future has in store."

The issue is drawn by Bendis' former ***Daredevil*** and ***Illuminati Special*** collaborator *Alex Maleev* in what Bendis described as a new style. "Alex is a true artist with many painting and drawing styles at his disposal. When we were doing ***Daredevil,*** we were both locked into a style of storytelling. You can experiment and vary from there, depending on the story, but the story has a tone that you want to keep consistent. Now that we're done with that and moving to other projects, there's much more room for him to show off. This is another place for him to do that."

So just how long have the two been gone? "It's Marvel time, and you try not to pull at that strong too hard, because the whole

thing will unravel," Bendis said. "But time has passed, and things have been gong on in the Marvel Universe, and they are acknowledged." As such, the issue will have scenes that take place during recent events in the Marvel Universe—but, Bendis stressed, Hawkeye and Scarlet Witch *won't* be shown as players behind the scenes.

"No, no—Clint's been *completely* off the radar, and this shows where he's been. All will be answered. Although, not everyone's going to like it. I would love if everyone did..."

Though it would make sense in the eyes of many fans, the issue isn't about Hawkeye hunting down the woman who killed him, brought him back to life, and then, well...killed him again. "No one's come back from the dead, having been murdered not once, but twice, by someone who was a friend that they loved, and had a romantic inkling towards when they first met—and then come back to deal with that," Bendis said.

"It's a very unique psychological situation, but we try to tell it as real as possible. There's a myriad of emotions washing over each of them at the same time, and that's what we're going to deal with here. That's why Alex is the perfect artist for the story, because my favorite moments in Daredevil were the ones where, without words being spoken, he could get across tons of emotions from Matt Murdock. It's something that Alex does very well, and I can trust that it will be there."

This transitional tale, following up on the multi-part ***Civil War*** tie-in issues, will be a one-time deal for Maleev; a month later, artist *Leinil Yu* will join the team as the series' regular artist.

"Leinel's already an issue deep into his run. I can't comment on ***Ultimate Wolverine versus Hulk,*** other than to say the delay wasn't Leinel and his ability to put out a book. He's as fast as *Mark Bagley*, and they're beautiful pages. So issue #27 is all the mystery in finding out what's happened with Ronin during ***Civil War,*** and what's happened in Japan since we left that story.

"The biggest question people have had about Ronin is how she's been shown as a guy, but is a hot girl—all of that will be answered. All of that was planned from the beginning. This story unfolds from her point of view, and then breaks into Elektra and the Hand fighting the new New Avengers."

Got that? That double-new thing is important. "That issue also debuts the *new* roster of the ***New Avengers,*** all of whom will appear in the issue. I can tell you that there are quite a few characters in there that Leinel draws fantastically. He's really making it his own. I know I'm so many months ahead in talking about this, but when people see Cho's Avengers and Leinel's Avengers....just seeing two artists just own their books is going to be very cool.

"Meanwhile, the B story is how this team got together, and how it got out of the country, and how will they ever get back into the country...if they are indeed, the resistance Avengers, versus the non-resistance Avengers. If there even is such a thing..."

"There's one character in particular who's not been on the Avengers before who's on this team that Leinel is exceptional at drawing, and I thought he would be. He's never drawn him before, and I thought he would draw an exceptional version of him, and he does. So you gotta put that guy right in the foreground."

Ask Bendis who'll be in the new team,though, and he plays coy. "Iron Man? I don't know if Tony Stark even makes it out of ***Civil War.*** I don't know who's wearing that Iron Man armor. I don't know who's wearing the Captain America costume. Iron Fist is Daredevil? Who knows what's going on? Everyone could've switched one costume to the right."

New Avengers #26 is slated for November release, with #27 following in December.

Menace to Society?

Superheroes strive to make the world a better place, right? But what if the government came to suspect that one of its heroes was working in opposition to his country and the American way of life?

If that hero operated in the cold-war America of the 1950's, he might find himself confronted by the House Un-American Activities Committee... and he might even be subject to blacklisting by a government that had lost faith in him.

This is the theme of the new Wildstorm title ***Red Menace,*** written by *Danny Bilson, Paul DeMeo & Adam Brody* (the first two responsible for the television series ***The Flash*** as well as the current series starring the Scarlet Speedster, the latter best known for his performance on the TV series ***The OC***), with art provided by veteran illustrator *Jerry Ordway*.

Coming from a Hollywood background, it's no surprise that the trio have an interest in the blacklisting of the 1950s, since many actors, writer, and directors found themselves subject to such blacklisting during this time. "The effect it had on the creatives in Hollywood has always left an impression," Bilson told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady & Steve Fritz*. "The unfairness, and injustice of it all will surely resonate in the book.

"The McCarthy period was chosen both for the feeling of LA in the 50's as well as the many real life characters that will populate the book. Also, the unfairness of the HUAC and what it did to writers in particular was something we wanted to write about, especially in these times where citizens are called unpatriotic for criticizing government policy."

The blacklisted star of ***Red Menace*** is The Eagle, and it's no coincidence that he bears similarities to two other superheroes—one known for his patriotism the other for one more associated with the dark side of crime.

"In his civilian identity, The Eagle is a Medal of Honor winning WW2 veteran," Bilson said. "He is trying to do the right thing by 'unmasking.' It just goes haywire. But as disillusioned as he becomes, he is always a patriot who loves his country. But, like Batman, he has no 'superpowers'—he's just an incredibly skilled, physically adept, hard-boiled character."

When the Eagle is forced to step aside, his heroic mantle is taken up by a young man named Tommy Woods, who wants to be just like his idol. "Believe it or not, the original idea for him came from *Woody Allen's* character in ***The Front,***" Bilson said. "Then it evolved from there. Don't get me wrong, he's not a schnook. He's a well-0meaning young man who wants to step up and do the right thing for his city in the absence of its greatest hero. But, unlike the Eagle, Tommy has a superpower that he's struggling to harness. I'm sure you can find parallels to the great sidekicks in comic-dom. And yes, the young man, without a father who finds a mentor in a broken hero is a strong part of the story. They sort of recharge each other."

The teaming of Bilson, DeMeo, and Brody is not as surprising as it might initially seem. "Adam and I are friends as he has been my daughter's significant other for three years now," explained Bilson, father of actress *Rachel Bilson*, Brody's ***OC*** co-star on TV. "*John Nee* at DC had the idea of teaming us up on a book, well before we started our work on ***The Flash: Fastest Man Alive.*** At

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first I thought it was kind of a nutty idea, but Adam is a comics fan, so I called him up and he was very interested."

Jerry Ordway, a superb visual storyteller with a strong sense of realism whose work often harkens back to classic comic artists of the Silver Age, is an inspired choice for ***Red Menace.*** "We are thrilled to have *Jerry Ordway* on board," Bilson said. "I've just seen the first few pages and am blown away."

Red Menace #1, the first issue of a six-part limited series, is slated for fall release; if the series does well, the creators are ready to continue with another mini-series.

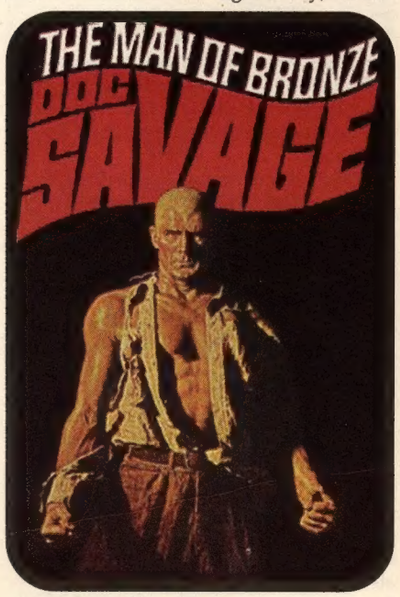
Ins & Outs

In: Artist *Peter Gross,* who has signed a two-year exclusive with DC Comics; the artist will continue to work on the Vertigo series ***Testament,*** but he's also preparing other projects for the company.

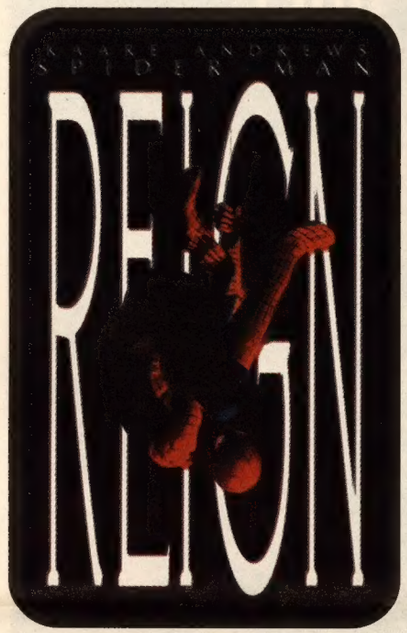
In: ***Scalped,*** a new series by *Jason Aaron* that will debut in early 2007. The ongoing Vertigo series is a modern-day crime drama set on an Indian reservation, and looks at what happens to one of the poorest regions in the United States when a multimillion dollar casino, with its inherent corruption and violence, is built on the land. Aaron said that he's very proud of the fact that the lead character, as well as virtually the entire cast is Native American, rather than the stereotypical "white man raised by Indians."

Out: Marvel's ***Civil War,*** which has slipped out of schedule. The fourth issue, which should have been in stores in mid-August, has been pushed back to the first week of September; no word at press-time as to how this might affect future issues or what impact it might have on tie-ins, some of which have been closely tied to the events of the core series and thus might give away ***Civil War*** plot developments if they appear prior to the main title's release.

In: A collection of "new" *Lester Dent* ***Doc Savage*** stories is in the works from Moonstone Books. " *Lester Dent* was the genius behind the creation of the Man of Bronze," Moonstone editor *Joe Gentile said.* "Now, for the first time ever, all of the *Lester Dent* penned ***Doc Savage*** radio scripts (very few were actually aired, and less than half of them have ever seen the light of day)will be published for the world to enjoy!" The collection will by copiously illustrated by *Dave Dorman & Doug Klauba.*



In: A new round of "young guns" at Marvel, spotlighting artists that the publisher expects to move into star status in the upcoming year. ***Young Guns Reloaded*** will focus on *Simone Bianchi, Clayton Crain, Pascual Ferry, Ariel Olivetti, Billy Tan, & Leinil Francis Yu.* (Yes, we know that many of these artists aren't exactly "young" or new to comics, but as Marvel sees it, the "young gun" designation indicates an artist at a major turning point in his career.

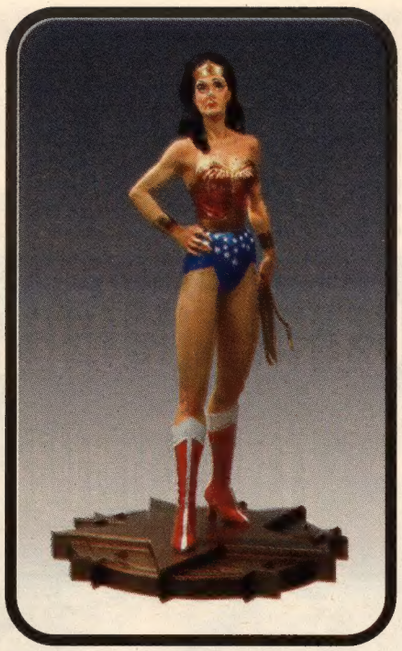


In: ***Spider-Man: Reign,*** a four-issue Marvel Knights limited series written and illustrated by *Kaare Andrews.* "Why Marvel Knights? Because I am asking questions that need uncensored answers. What happens to a woman who marries a man with radioactive blood? What happens to these characters 35 years from now? What makes a city trade in its freedom for security? What happens when we no longer need heroes? When a man stops fighting? What brings him back?" Each issue of the out-of-continuity series will feature 36 pages of story and art.

Out: *Serena Valentino's* popular Slave Labor Graphic series ***GloomCookie,*** which will end after the 28th issue, due out in September. The decision to end the series was made by its creator/writer, although she will continue to work on future projects with ***Gloom Cookie*** illustrator *Vincent Batignole.* The final story arc from ***GloomCookie #s 24-28*** will be collected in the fifth and final ***GloomCookie*** trade paperback. "Issue 28 is the perfect place to end," Valentino said. "It ends this story arc but hints at the characters' futures." The series, which began in 1998, has featured art by a number of impressive talents, including *Ted Naifeh, John Gebbia, Breehn Burns, & Harley Sparx* as well as current artist Batignole.

In: A *Paul Dini*-written series, ***Madame Mirage,*** which is on the spring 2007 schedule from Top Cow. The company isn't giving away many details about the series, which is illustrated by newcomer *Kenneth Rocafort,* although they did say that ***Madame Mirage*** will have a very 1920's-ish look and feel.

In: A ***Wonder Woman Statue*** based on the likeness of *Lynda Carter,* the actress best known for her portrayal of the heroine on the 1970's television series. The cold-cast porcelain statue, modeled after and personally approved by Carter, is sculpted by Tim Bruckner; the costume is based on the version of Wonder Woman's classic garb worn by Carter on the series.. Though DC Direct has made numerous Wonder Woman items, this is the first time that any have been based on Carter's likeness.



Out: *John Byrne,* who is leaving ***All New Atom*** after the third issue of that series. *Eddy Barrows* is slated to illustrate #4; no word on who will take over the book after that.

Brian Wood Heads North

Brian Wood, who has produced urban dramas, hometown-America human interest stories, and gritty near-future SF dramas, is looking back for his next project.

About eleven centuries back, in fact.

Wood, who has just signed an exclusive contract with DC, is working on a 2007 Vertigo project about Vikings entitled ***Northlanders.*** Wood said that this series, his second monthly at the DC imprint, will be out of his comfort zone, but leans more towards the books he read as a kid.

Editor *Will Dennis* said that the series is something that will bring Wood's style and sensibility to something totally new. "It'll be very different, but still one of his kind of books."

According to Dennis, the series, which will be set roughly around 900 AD, will examine life in a time of transition.

Wood said that this would not be a "typical Viking book with half-naked men... it's *not* ***Conan.***" He also said it would be written in modern English, without the faux Old English vocabulary so frequently used in Dark Age, medieval, and Renaissance adventures. No artist has been chosen thus far, since the series isn't actually debuting until the middle of next year.

The series is one of the first works produced under Wood's new two-year exclusive contract with DC; the contract allows Wood to to finish his outstanding projects for other publishers including ***Local,*** as well as an upcoming project for Top Shelf.

Illuminating the Illuminati

Remember the ***New Avengers: The Illuminati*** special that helped lay the groundwork for ***Civil War?*** Well, apparently you're not the only one; since the book's release, readers have asked Marvel and writer *Brian Bendis* for more background info on this cabal of heroes and their behind-the-scenes involvement in Marvel history.

Those questions will soon be answered, as Marvel has added a five-issue ***Illuminati*** limited series to their lineup. Each of the five issues will focus on a different event the Illuminati played a role in, leading up to the present day, Bendis explained, when things hit the fan.

"The hook of the book is that you find out all the stuff they did, and what they did—right after Kree-Skrull War, they did something big, I can tell you; and then you'll go up to modern day, and in the modern day, they get outed to their families—the X-Men, the Avengers, the Inhumans, and the Fantastic Four all find out what these guys have been doing behind their backs. There are a lot of people who're upset with them."

The ***Illuminati Special*** revealed that the group didn't always act in unanimity; this series will underscore the tensions and disagreements that are a part of any influential group. "You're going to see the decisions that they made, as well as the thing that they tried to do and failed at that may have started events that you thought they didn't have anything to do with. I know, people are already yelling, 'Retcon! Bastard!' but you'll see.

Bendis is joined by co-writer *Brian Reed* for the series, which will be illustrated by *Jimmy Cheung.* So why the co-writer? "On a story like this with so many points of view, and so much history involved, it's good to have two sets of eyes looking at everything You're usually harder on your friends than you are on yourself, so if one of us tries to shoehorn something in when it clearly doesn't fit, the other is there to pull him back from the edge. But trust me—*massive* research has been done on this.

"Together, Jimmy, Brian, and I have found a few moments in Marvel history that they slide right into like butter. I don't think there's going to be too much pitchfork raising at me for this, but then again, I've thought that before.

"We started with the premise, and the reason we wanted to do this story was the endgame image—the Illuminati being outed. Sometimes that final image just fills your head. And also, I did have very concrete story beats that I was gong to do, even from last year. From there, it was all research. We re-read and researched older stories—sometimes we got in touch with the original creators to talk about what they wanted to do versus what they were allowed to do, and form there, we put things together. If you're touching the Kree Skrull War, the Kree Skrull War should be *thoroughly* researched.

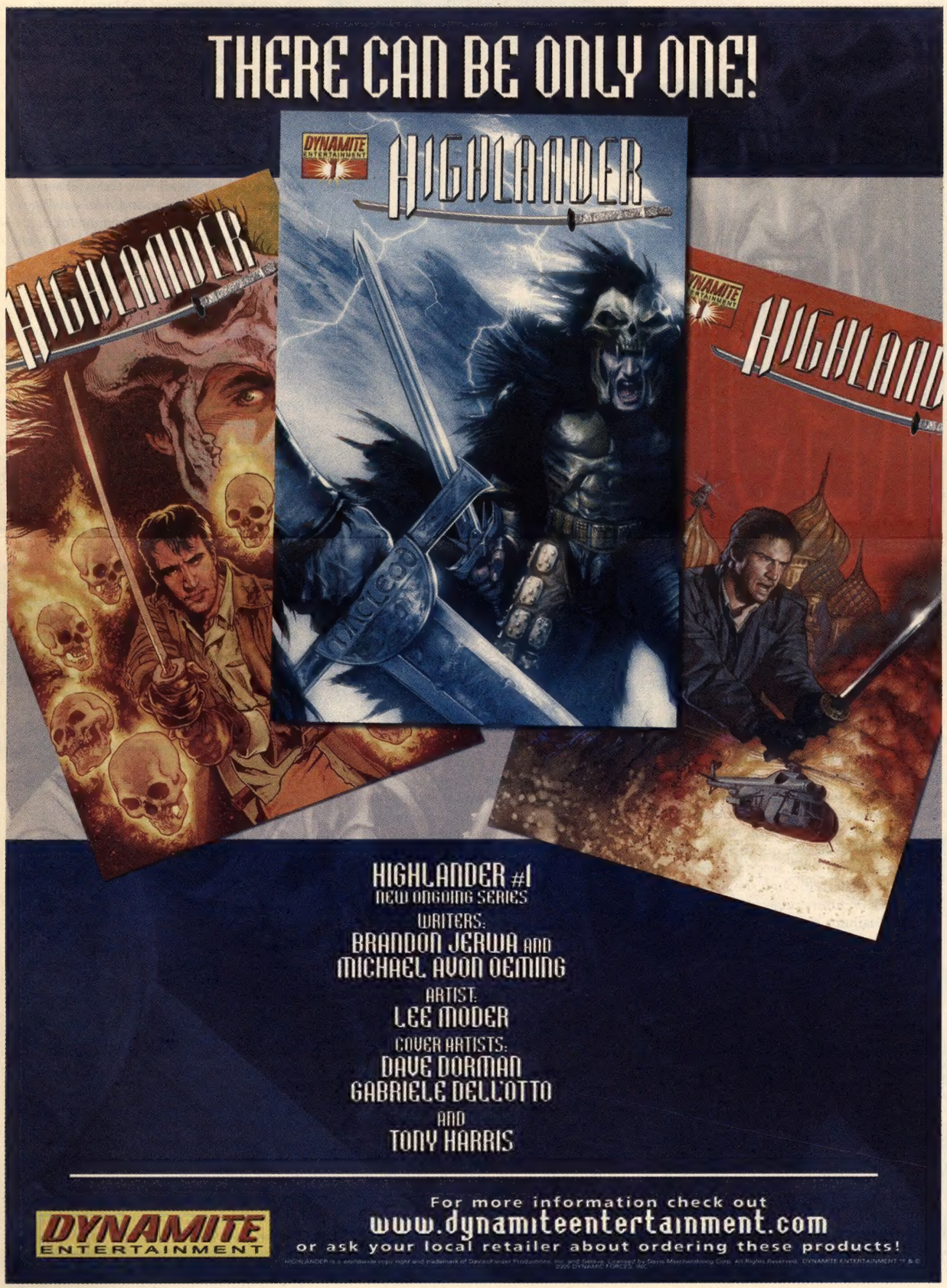
While the ***Special*** was a very "talky" story, this series will be a bit more... *energetic.* "In the very first issue, the group goes on a big cosmic adventure together—like a supergroup, and goes out to the Skrull Empire and tells them how it is - how the world is, and if they try that stuff again, what will happen to them. But of course, that all goes to hell. But what happens in that issue actually affects things big-time for next summer in the Marvel Universe. It's all

planned, baby.

"There is also an issue that's very Inhumans-heavy, as well as one that addresses Namor's very fickle relationship with the Marvel Universe. After all, how can you have this character in a group, when every third day, he's attacking the surface world?"

While the group's involvement is complex, there are moments in Marvel history that were a surprise to this secret superhero society as well. ""Some events happen like a bomb dropping—you don't see them coming, and there's not much that the Illuminati could have done beforehand," Bendis said. "But afterwards - they can do something a little smarter or put something in place to prevent it from happening again. That could go well or go wrong. When Galactus shows up, he lets you know he's coming. When Nitro shows up, he doesn't. It's not like the Illuminati can be all things, be everywhere, and protect everyone."

Oh, and about that big summer 2007 event?... "It's not really an event, just a big storyline. The stories will be big, but the feeling is that ***Civil War*** is the cherry on the cake of events, and we can get back to making every storyline an event in its own right," Bendis said.



CSN Goes Sonic

CSN has been a way for comic fans to read about and see art from upcoming comics for nineteen years, but after a thousand issues, editors Cliff Biggers and Ward Batty have decided to offer fans a chance to hear about comics with a podcast, ***CSNsider***.

The ***CSNsider*** podcast isn't an audio version of the paper (it would take over an hour to read an issue aloud for broadcast). Each week Cliff and Ward will preview the upcoming issue of ***CSN*** and Cliff offers his picks of the books due in that Wednesday.

"The podcast compliments the print version and should be a new way to reach out to comic fans who may not be coming into shops right now. We've heard from several fans already who said the podcast has lured them back to check out something they've heard about." says Ward Batty.

The podcast also gives Cliff and Ward a chance to discuss stories from each issue as well as behind-the-scenes chat. The podcast can be accessed through the **csnsider.com** website as well as through iTunes.

What If Marvel Focused on More Recent History?

Traditionally, Marvel has focused on classic Marvelverse history for its ***What If?*** tales—but this November and December, the publisher will offer an alternative look at more recent events in a new series of ***What If?*** oneshots.

The five oneshots include:

- ***What If? Avengers Disassembled*** (by *Jeff Parker & Aaron Lopresti)* - What if there had been no new team to form in the wake of the Avengers' destruction? Who would take on the greatest threat of all?
- ***What If? Spider-Man: The Other*** (by *Peter David & Koi Pham)* - What if the human side of Peter Parker had been subsumed by the arachnid aspect of his nature? What would have happened if Peter Parker had become more spider than man?
- ***What If? Wolverine—Enemy of the State*** (by *Jimmie Robinson & Carmine Di Giandomenico)* - What if Wolverine had never been deprogrammed, leaving him in assassin mode? What if he had continued to target one hero after another, until only a select few superbeing remained to confront the feral killer?
- ***What If? Age of Apocalypse*** (written by *Rick Remender)* - What if the Age of Apocalypse had not ended and this harsh alternate history had become Marvel's new reality?
- ***What If? X-Men: Deadly Genesis*** (by *David Hine & David Yardin)* - What if the confrontation between the Summers brothers had taken a different turn?

Editor *Mark Paniccia* explained why Marvel chose to focus on more recent storylines rather than returning to classic moments in earlier Marvel history. "There are plenty of cool moments left in the Marvel Universe to tap into and more created every month. It was about doing something tied into all the recent great arcs. And all of them beg a doosey of a ***What If?***"

September's Top Twenty Comics

52 WEEK #18
(Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, & Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JUL060168 $2.50)

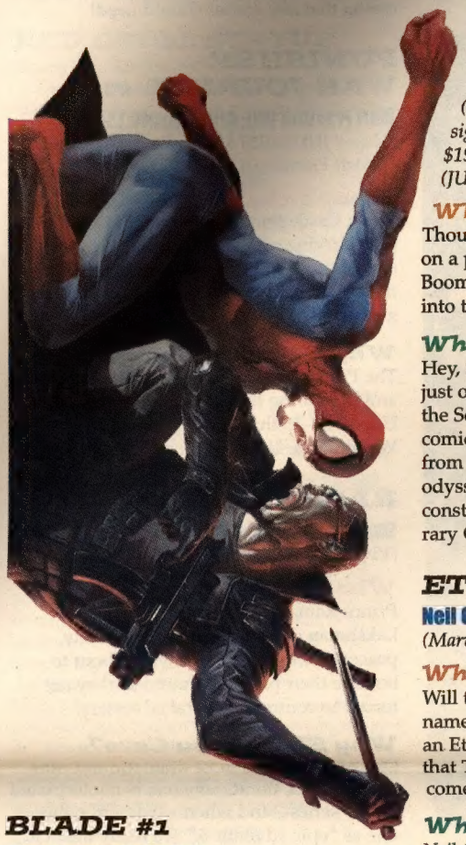
52 WEEK #19
(Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, & Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JUL060169 $2.50)

52 WEEK #20
(Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, & Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JUL060170 $2.50)

52 WEEK #21
(Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, & Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JUL060171 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?
DC's exploration of the "missing year" continues—and as prior issues of the series have revealed, it's possible to be surprised even when you know can see the post-52 status quo on a weekly basis! And don't miss the short origin backup features at the end of each issue, or you might overlook some intriguing clues regarding ***Crisis***-related changes...

Why Should You Care?
Few comics deliver as many twists and turns—and as much plot development—in a single issue as does *52*. Read this and you'll see that ***Infinite Crisis*** was more than an ending—it was also the beginning of a new chapter in DC history... and that chapter unfolds in this weekly series.



BLADE #1
Marc Guggenheim (W); Howard Chaykin (A)
(Marvel JUL061951 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
Marvel's premiere vampire hunter is back in action in his own solo series that stresses the deadly hero's place in the Marvel Universe.

Why Should You Care?
With three successful films and a current television series, ***Blade*** has reached millions of potential fans—so it's about time that he got a comic book series that captured that "edgy" vitality. And if you want "edgy," there are few who are more skilled at it than artist *Howard Chaykin* (who has more than a little skill with vampires, as his work on ***Bite Club*** for Vertigo aptly demonstrates).

CIVIL WAR #5
Mark Millar (W); Steve McNiven (A)
(Marvel JUL061952 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
The split between the superheroes suddenly goes critical when the supervillains make their presence known, using the turmoil to their own advantage. But the bad guys didn't plan for the reappearance of the Punisher as a Marvel Universe force to be reckoned with...

Why Should You Care?
The most compelling event series in Marvel history continues to deliver surprises—and what could be more surprising than the Punisher's return to the Marvel Universe after several years in MAX purgatory?...

CLASSIC BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #1
Rick Remender (W); Carlos Rafael (A)
(Dynamite JUL063041 $3.50; also available signed by Rick Remender (JUL063113 $19.99)) or by cover artist Dave Dorman (JUL063114 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?
Thought dead and left behind by Galactica on a planet overrun by Cylons, Starbuck and Boomer's only hope for survival takes them into the heart of a Cylon stronghold.

Why Should You Care?
Hey, Starbuck and Boomer are *dudes*! That's just one of many crucial differences between the Sci-Fi Channel's current series and this comic inspired by the *original* ***Galactica*** from the 1970's. But the basic human odyssey against cyborg adversaries remains constant, so nostalgia fans and contemporary Galacticans will feel right at home.

ETERNALS #4
Neil Gaiman (W); John Romita Jr. (A)
(Marvel JUL061963 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?
Will the Eternals life up to their collective name? With Ikaris dead, it appears that even an Eternal can come to an end... and now that The Sleeper is waking, will that end come for Eternals and humans alike?

Why Should You Care?
Neil Gaiman, the master of the metaphysical fantasy and alternate history adventure, proves he's equally adept with things cosmic in this epic saga. And *John Romita Jr.* is just the man to bring this grand adventure to life visually.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #2
Brad Meltzer (W); Ed Benes & Sandra Hope (A)
(DC JUL060178 $2.99; also available signed by cover artists Michael Turner & Peter Steigerwald (JUL063120 $49.99))

What's the Scoop?
The selection process is underway as Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman continue their quest to assemble the World's Greatest Super-Team... and they'd better hurry, because there's a new villain who's targeting heroes—and he's beginning with Red Tornado!

Why Should You Care?
An all-star first-class super-team in a new series produced by an all-star first-class creative team—now *that's* the formula for comic book success!

KID KOSMOS GN
Jim Starlin (W/A)
(Dynamite JUL063045 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?
The adventures of the Cosmic Guard continue in this original graphic novel that picks up where the limited series left off.

Why Should You Care?
The Cosmic Master, *Jim Starlin*, is back doing what he does best. What a perfect selection to premiere Dynamite's new line of original graphic novels!

KINGDOM HEARTS: CHAIN OF MEMORIES VOL 1 GN
(TokyoPop JUL063441 $9.99)

What's the Scoop?
Sora, Donald, and Goofy discover that their magic and skills have been stripped from them... and that's bad news for Sora in particular as he is forced to travel on his own!

Why Should You Care?
Tokyopop's original ***Kingdom Hearts*** four-volume series was one of the biggest hits of the year, and it's *still* tough to find copies of the first volume. Don't miss out on this sequel— if you do, you're getting *no* sympathy from us!

LONE RANGER #1

Brett Matthews (W); John Cassaday, Sergio Cariello, & Dean White (A)
(Dynamite JUL063037 $2.99; also available signed by Brett Matthews & John Cassaday (JUL063112 $49.99))

What's the Scoop?

The Lone Ranger rides again in this new take on the origin of the classic Western hero.

Why Should You Care?

Dynamite has enlisted two high-profile Lone Ranger fans—***Serenity*** limited series writer *Brett Matthews* and ***Astonishing X-Men*** artist *John Cassaday*—to give a 21st Century appeal to this 19th Century masked man.

LOST GIRLS DLX SLIPCASED ED

Alan Moore (W); Melinda Gebbie (A)
(Top Shelf JUN063440 $75.00)

What's the Scoop?

In pre-WWI Europe, three women—Dorothy, Wendy, and Alice—meet in an Austrian hotel to share their experiences with the only people who can possibly understand what happened to them in their younger years. Before it's over, they'll share much, *much* more...

Why Should You Care?

Alan Moore offers an *extremely* adult look at the heroines of ***The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan,*** and ***Alice in Wonderland*** in this provocative three-volume slipcased hardcover graphic novel. Be warned, though—this is *not* ***Watchmen*** or ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen,*** so be prepared for some controversial sexual content!

MARVEL 1602: FANTASTICK FOUR #1

Peter David (W); Pascal Alixe (A)
(Marvel JUL061970 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

The Four from the Fantastick confront their greatest enemy in an adventure that takes them to the ends of the Earth. But what does Count Otto von Doom have in store... and can the Four put aside their own disputes long enough to prepare a united front against his villainy?

Why Should You Care?

After a sophomore stumble that failed to capture the Elizabethan sense of wonder of the *Neil Gaiman* series that reset the Marvel Universe at the end of the British Renaissance, Marvel has enlisted *Peter David* to guide their third venture into this fascinating alternative reality.

MYSTERY IN SPACE #1

Jim Starlin (W); Shane Davis, Jim Starlin, & Al Milgrom (A)
(DC JUL060182 $3.99; also available signed by Jim Starlin (JUL063122 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Meet the all-new Captain Comet in this cosmic eight-issue limited series. And if that's not enough space adventure for you, there's also a sixteen-page adventure of Starlin's The Weird in the back of each issue!

Why Should You Care?

Remember how we were just talking about Starlin's rep as a Cosmic Master? Well, that means that the appeal of this space adventure is no mystery at all!

NINJA SCROLL #1

J. Torres (W); Michael Chang (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUL060239 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The international anime hit comes to American comics in this original series that follows the adventures of wandering ronin Jubei as he confronts villains and monsters in feudal Japan.

Why Should You Care?

Torres & Chang bring American comics' energy and exuberance to ***Ninja Scroll*** in this original series, while WildStorm head honcho *Jim Lee* supplies the variant cover art!

PRIDE OF BAGHDAD HC

Brian K. Vaughan (W); Niko Henrichon (A)
(Vertigo/DC JUN060255 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

During the 2003 American bombing raid on Baghdad, a pride of lions escaped from the zoo. Lost, confused, and hungry, these lions struggled for survival against the backdrop of a city at war. Their story becomes an allegory for the human experience in this powerful and poignant original graphic novel.

Why Should You Care?

Brian K. Vaughan, who has established his reputation with powerful character-driven series like ***Y—The Last Man, Ex Machina,*** and ***Runaways,*** considers this one of the finest works of his comics career... and coming from a writer of his caliber, that's all the reason that any reader should need!

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #1

Matt Fraction (W); Ariel Olivetti (A)
(Marvel JUL061988 $2.99; also available signed by Matt Fraction (JUL063115 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Frank Castle find himself targeted by a bad guy carrying a badge... and that's just the sort of thing that'll make Castle mad. *Really* mad. And after Frank Castle gets mad, he gets even...

Why Should You Care?

The Punisher is doing what he does best—and he's doing it in the middle of the Marvel Universe—in this ***Civil War*** spinoff series. Welcome back!

RAMAYAN REBORN #1

Shamik Dasgupta (W); Abhishek Singh (A)
(Virgin JUL063511 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Prince Rama and his brother Prince Lakshman discover that the seemingly peaceful outpost of Ayodhya is about to become their proving ground as they are forced to confront a brutal adversary.

Why Should You Care?

One of literature's most dramatic and compelling epics, the ***Ramayana,*** is reinterpreted in this series—and when we describe this one as "epic adventure," we really mean it!

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN #100

Brian Bendis (W); Mark Bagley (A)
(Marvel JUL061938 $3.99; also available signed by Mark Bagley (JUL063117 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Ultimate Spider-Man reaches the century mark with this double-sized issue that brings the Clone Saga to a stunning conclusion with a trio of shock endings that play on plot threads dating back to the beginning of the series.

Why Should You Care?

The first—and the best—Ultimate series is going just as strong after a hundred issues as it was when it first launched, thanks to the efforts of Bendis & Bagley, who celebrate their hundredth consecutive issue with this extravaganza.

WETWORKS #1

Mike Carey (W); Whilce Portacio & Trevor Scott (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUL060223 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The WildStormverse needs someone to confront the vampires, werewolves, and other creatures that prowl the dark corners of their world... and that's where Wetworks comes into the picture!

Why Should You Care?

Wetworks creator *Whilce Portacio* is joined by acclaimed writer *Mike Carey* for this high-energy ***WorldStorm*** reinvention of the take-no-prisoners superteam.

WILDCATS #1

Grant Morrison (W); Jim Lee & Scott Williams (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUL060220 $2.99; also available signed by Jim Lee (JUL063119 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of ***Captain Atom: Armageddon,*** the WildStormverse has undergone a dramatic shift—and now, more than ever, they need a superteam like the Wildcats. Well, the heroes are back... but how will they differ?

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison, writer of the best ***Superman*** title *and* the best ***Batman*** title on the racks today, joins ***Wildcats*** creator *Jim Lee* as they revitalize the premiere WildStorm superteam, restoring them to their heroic glory.

X-MEN: FIRST CLASS #1

Jeff Parker (W); Roger Cruz (A)
(Marvel JUL062006 $2.99)

Jeff Parker & Roger Cruz take a look at the early days of the first class at Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters

What's the Scoop?

Return to the formative years of Professor Xavier's first class of gifted mutants in this series that reveals untold adventures of the original X-Men during their student days.

Why Should You Care?

Find out what made the X-Men so appealing from the very beginning in this series that revisits the team in its early days. This isn't a retelling of classic adventures, though; instead, *Jeff Parker* is presenting new "in-between" adventures that dovetail with those *Stan Lee* classics.

Hot Commodities: September's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

HELLBOY ANIMATED STATUE #1: HELLBOY

(Dark Horse MAY060050 $150.00)

Dark Horse kicks off a line of statues inspired by IDT's direct-to-video animated series with their premiere statue featuring the Big Red One himself, as sculpted by *Tony Cipriano.*

INFINITE CRISIS SERIES 1 ALEXANDER LUTHOR ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060347 $20.00)

INFINITE CRISIS SERIES 1 EARTH PRIME SUPERBOY ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060348 $20.00)

INFINITE CRISIS SERIES 1 MONGUL ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060345 $24.00)

INFINITE CRISIS SERIES 1 OMAC ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060346 $20.00)

INFINITE CRISIS SERIES 1 POWER GIRL ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060349 $20.00)

INFINITE CRISIS SERIES 1 COMPLETE SET

(DC Direct FEB060344 $90.00)

Kick off a Crisis of your own with this five-figure set featuring the premiere bad guys of the series, along with the pulchritudinous Power Girl. And Alexander Luthor even comes with a removable afro!

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 4 BLACK ADAM ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060354 $20.00)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 4 GRUNDY ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060357 $24.00)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 4 HAWKMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060355 $24.00)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 4 SHAZAM ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060353 $20.00)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 4 ZATANNA ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB060356 $20.00)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 4 COMPLETE SET

(DC Direct FEB060352 $90.00)

Alex Ross's interpretation of the world's greatest super-team is the inspiration for this fourth series of figures.

IRON MAN ORIGINAL MINI BUST

(Bowen JUL064188 $45.00)

Forget that red-and-yellow suit—this steel-gray riveted armor is the original Iron Man battle suit, created by Tony Stark way back in 1962. Sculptor *Carl Surges* captures the massive power of that original *Jack Kirby* design in this iconic sculpture.

RED SKULL STATUE

(Bowen JUN064001 $160.00)

Captain America's diabolical adversary is presented in all his malevolent glory in this stunning statue sculpted by *Randy Bowen*.

WOMEN OF THE DC UNIVERSE SUPERGIRL BUST

(DC Direct FEB060359 $45.00)

Sculptor *John G. Mathews* brings *Adam Hughes'* version of Power Girl into the third dimension with this distinctive mini-bust. Of course, since it's Power Girl, the phrase "mini-bust" may not apply...

Collected Cool: September's Best Reprint Volumes

INFINITE CRISIS HC

(DC JUN060204 $24.99)

The history-making seven-issue limited series by *Geoff Johns, Phil Jimenez, George Perez, Jerry Ordway, Ivan Reis,* and others is collected in a hardcover collection, supplemented with every cover image (original and variants), annotations, character designs, script excerpts, and more. Completist alert: some of the artwork has been reworked slightly for this volume, making it a sort of "director's cut" edition.

LIFE AND TIMES OF SCROOGE MCDUCK COMPANION SC

(Gemstone JUN063129 $16.99)

Thought you had the whole story of Uncle Scrooge's formative years? Guess again! This volume collects the pre-chapters and in-between-chapters of *Don Rosa's* ***Life and Times of Scrooge McDuck.***

LITTLE LULU COLOR SPECIAL TP

(Dark Horse MAY060030 $13.95)

Sure, Dark Horse has offered eleven volumes of these classics in black and white—but here at last are some of the best *John Stanley-Irving Tripp* tales in full color!

MARVEL MASTERWORKS HUMAN TORCH VOL 1 HC

(Marvel JUL062013 $49.99)

At last, the final major uncollected Silver Age Marvel series gets the ***Masterworks*** treatment. This volume compiles the Human Torch solo tales from ***Strange Tales #s 101-117 & Strange Tales Annual #2*** (featuring work by *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby,* and others) making it a must-have for any ***Fantastic Four Masterworks*** collector.

POPEYE VOL 1: I YAM WHAT I YAM HC

(Fantagraphics JUL063133 $29.95)

Beginning Fantagraphics' comprehensive reprinting of *E.C. Segar's* ***Thimble Theater,*** including both the dailies and the color Sundays. If your Popeye knowledge begins and ends with the King Features animated shorts, you're in for a treat!

SHAZAM FAMILY ARCHIVES VOL 1 HC

(JUN060210 $49.99)

Captain Marvel Jr. and Mary Marvel earn their own Archives! This volume collects tales from ***Master Comics #s 23-32, Captain Marvel Jr. #1, & Captain Marvel Adventures #18***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN VOL 1 TP

(DC JUN060214 $16.99)

Here's the entire Kirby "test run" for the ***Fantastic Four*** in this series starring a quartet of adventurers who survived a near-fatal crash to become jump-suited heroes. This black and white edition not only reprints all the Kirby issues, but it also includes some of the rarely-seen post-Kirby issues illustrated by *Bob Brown*, one of the Silver Age's most underappreciated talents.

Read All About It: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

HOW TO CREATE COMICS FROM SCRIPT TO PRINT TP

(TwoMorrows AUG063627 $13.95)

Danny Fingeroth & Mike Manley offer a beginning-to-end guide to comic book creation; this expanded version adds over thirty pages of new material.

OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK GRADING GUIDE 2ND EDITION

(Gemstone JUL063163 $24.95)

This essential book for anyone looking to buy or sell old comics offers hundreds of photos of comics, annotated to explain the hows and whys of grading. Creases, stains, arrival dates, color breaks, Marvel chipping—it's all here, along with much more information that teaches you how to realistically grade your own books—and since you won't have to slab 'em in a sealed case afterwards, you can still *enjoy* them!

Check 'Em Out: Book You Should Be Reading

9/11 REPORT GRAPHIC ADAPTATION

(Hill & Wang JUL063198 $16.00)

Sid Jacobson & Ernie Colon offer a graphic novel look at the 9/11 Commission's study of American post-9/11 preparedness.

E-MAN RECHARGED

(Digital Webbing JUL063100 $3.99)

Nicola Cuti & Joe Staton resurrect their lighthearted adventure series with an original tale of E-Man, Nova Kane, and their nemesis, the Brain from Sirius.

KRYPTO THE SUPER DOG #1

(Johnny DC JUL060201 $2.25)

Flying in from his hit TV cartoon, Krypto the Superdog arrives with a fun-filled 6-issue miniseries written by *Jesse Leon McCann*.

SE7EN GLUTTONY #1

(Zenescope JUL063567 $3.99)

Raven Gregory & Josh Medors launch a suspensefully disturbing comic based on the movie from New Line Cinema.

SIMPSONS LIBRARY OF WISDOM: THE KRUSTY BOOK HC

(Bongo JUL063714 $9.95)

SIMPSONS LIBRARY OF WISDOM: THE LISA BOOK HC

(Bongo JUL063713 $9.95)

If you've *ever* enjoyed ***The Simpsons,*** you're going to love these little gems from Bongo. Each book presents oodles of original material that offers you a glimpse into the psyche of the title character.

SOCK MONKEY: THE INCHES INCIDENT #1

(Dark Horse JUL060017 $2.99)

Uncle Gabby and Mr. Crow embark on a nautical misadventure in this new limited series by *Tony Millionaire*.

STAN LEE MEETS DR STRANGE

(Marvel JUL061993 $3.99)

STAN LEE MEETS SPIDER-MAN

(Marvel JUL061992 $3.99)

Stan Lee meets some of his most famous co-creations in these unique oneshots that feature two original tales in each issue, one of them written by Stan himself! Each book also includes a classic Stan-selected reprint tale.

TRUE STORY, SWEAR TO GOD #1

(Image JUL061674 $2.99)

Tom Beland's true-life comics series moves to Image, and Beland celebrates the move with a numerical relaunch. This volume focuses on the hardships of a freelance cartoonist trying to collect from late-paying publishers (see, it really *is* a true story!).

ZOMBIE #1

(Marvel MAX JUL062011 $3.99)

Simon Garth returns in this intense MAX series by *Mike Raicht & Kyle Hotz*. Long before zombies were cool, Marvel had their very own zombie hero—and now the concept gets renovated as a part of Marvel's mature-readers MAX line.

THE VIETNAM WAR

Two young men from opposite ends of the Earth will drag themselves through Hell...

...for a chance to kill each other.

the OTHER SIDE

A five-issue limited series exploring the horrors of war from opposing viewpoints

Written by
JASON AARON

Illustrated by
CAMERON STEWART

Comic Shop Locator Service:
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COMICS & BOOKS FOR MATURE READERS
VERTIGO #1

OCTOBER
2006